

OUR PURPOSE

*The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders
to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world.*

OUR VISION

*Radiating the light of Christ, the Presbytery of Geneva thrives
as a community of servants, lifting up every congregation and leader
in ministering together.*

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, held in-person only at Camp Whitman.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

9:30 pm Registration and Fellowship Time (through 10:00 am)

CALL TO ORDER

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North), Moderator, called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:12 am, a quorum being present.

ROLL

CONGREGATIONS: MINISTERS & COMMISSIONERS (CM = Corresponding Member; CRE = Commissioned Pastor)

CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER	CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER
ADDISON	A - Peter Marr (CM)		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Stu Buisch (CM)	
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison (CM)		NEWARK, PARK	H. Leigh Holder	Marilyn Wilson
ARKPORT, COMMUNITY	EX - Bruce Incze		OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BATH, FIRST	John Woodring	Kathy Swan	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	-----	Jean Stein
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Sean Murphy	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	EX - Judy Mellgard
BIG FLATS, FIRST	A - Patricia Schick	A - Robin Fitzgerald	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	
BURDETT	EX - Richard Evans (CRE)	EX - Martha Evans	PALMYRA, WESTERN	A - Hodong Hwang	Philip Opdycke
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	Wade Allen (CM)	Edwin Blance	PENN YAN, FIRST	Paul Malles	A - Rob Anderson
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra		PHELPS, UNITED		A - Marsha Gibbs
COHOCTON, FIRST	-----	Linda Hodges	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	-----	A - Lynn Dinehart
CORNING, FIRST	A - Jeffrey Ugoretz	EX - Kay Nash	PULTENEY, FIRST	-----	Barbara Karl
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	-----	EX - Judith Langdon	RED CREEK	-----	EX - Virginia Kachurak
ELMIRA, FIRST	Lynn Rubier-Capron	Barbara Fitzsimmons	ROCK STREAM	A - Carleen Frost (CRE)	Jeff Osborne
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	Annie LeFevre	SENECA #9	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Pam Ells
GENEVA, THE PC	Colin Pritchard	Harriet Haynes	SENECA FALLS, FIRST	Leah Ntuala	

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
CAMP WHITMAN**

**STATED MEETING
MAY 26, 2026
10:00 AM**

HECTOR	Michael Ball	Susan Rocholl	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Ted Warner	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	Joan Miller
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	-----	Ruth Hauser	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	Kermit Bossard
HOWARD, UNION	-----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	-----	A - Alexis Schaefer
HURON	A - Nancy J Farrell	A - Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	A - George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	EX - Cynthia Weaver Kiranne Weaver	Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	Linda Myers (CM)	A - Rob Rossiter
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	-----	Barry Winters
LYONS, FIRST	-----	Joanne Reinhardt	WOLCOTT, FIRST	Walter Stuber (CM)	Andrew DeMay
MARION, UNITED	-----	Frank Halstead			
MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)				

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE / HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS

Daniel Russell (VM)	EX - Adrian Tiersen (VM)			
EX - Marjorie Ackerman (AL)	David Ashby (AL)	A - Michael Capron (AL)	Todd Haines (AL)	EX - Glenn Kennedy (AL)
EX - Cara Milne (AL)	EX - Aaron Frank (AL)	EX - Susan Joseph Rack (HR)	EX - Beverly Karr-Lyon (HR)	
EX - David Barnard (HR)	EX - Philip Courtney (HR)	EX - Betsey Crimmins (HR)	EX - Ellen Donnan (HR)	Jim Gerling (HR)
EX - Pam Gnagy (HR)	EX - James Hicks (HR)	EX - Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)	EX - Susan Husted (HR)	EX - Jeff Kellam (HR)
EX - James Kerr (HR)	John Milne (HR)	EX - Tom Montgomery (HR)	EX - Paul Rack (HR)	EX - Robert Rochelle (HR)
Barbara Schwartz (HR)	Jane Winters (HR)	EX - Sam Edwards (HR)	EX - Christy Wareham (HR)	

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS (appointed by Presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

EX - Richard Evans (Watkins Glen, First) CRE (Burdett)	Connie Franks (Ontario, First) CRE (Shortsville, First)	A - Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) CRE (Rock Stream)	A - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)
EX - John Gingerich (Wolcott, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	EX - Don Peek (Pulteney, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - Bob Sell (Horseheads, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)
EX - Sandra Ansley (Geneva) COUNCIL (Operations)	Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) COUNCIL (Leader Care)	A - Chris Gerling (Geneva) COM Co-Chair	A - Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Horseheads, First) COUNCIL (Presbyterian Women)

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

Gretchen Duffy
(Administrative Support Services)

REGISTERED GUESTS and CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Current Meeting; granted voice)

Virginia Champlin (Geneva)	David Hansen (Elmira, North)
Catherine Foerster (Penn Yan, First)	Stephanie S. (Potter's Hands)
Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)	Ron Tunison (Horseheads, First)
Mary Stone (Rock Stream)	Barbara Goodrich (Cohocton)
Barbara Richter (Corning, First)	Deb Halstead (Marion, United)
Linda DePoint (Marion, United)	Mark Slomski (Canandaigua, United)
Cindy Fitzwater (Hornell, United)	Linda Werts (Canandaigua, United)
Sonya Brooks (Canandaigua, United)	Darlene Whitcomb (Lyons, First)
Sue Rowe (Newark, Park)	Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)
Cheryl Palmieri (Geneva)	Robin Clark (Geneva)
Beth Newell (Geneva)	Doris Barber (Spencer, KTKF)
Louise Siretz (Spencer, KTKF)	Vera Dykes (Weston)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2026	Jan 24	Mar 24	May 26				
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	23	26	23				
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	23	23	23				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+0	-3	0				
Total Registered CMs, Visitors, and Staff	4	6	28				
Total Registered Attendance****	50	55	74				

* Does not include Corresponding Members, with voice, not vote. Does include Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired

** Includes Elder Commissioners and Additional Elder Commissioners

*** Includes Corresponding Members without vote

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The presbytery VOTED to **approve** the docket for the meeting:

9:30 AM	Registration and Fellowship Time (through 10:00 AM)
10:00 AM	Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
10:05 AM	Introductory Business
	Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
	Introduction of New Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests
	Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
10:15 AM	Consent Agenda and Clerk's Report
10:25 AM	Committee on Mission and Witness Mission Fair
11:25 AM	Treasurer's Report
11:30 AM	Committee on Representation
11:40 AM	Committee on Leader Care
11:45 AM	Worship
	Proclamation of the Word
	Commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners and Vice Moderator
	Good News from Congregations & Committees
	* To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
	Resolution of Thanks
12:30 PM	Adjournment

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS, CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, AND GUESTS

New Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests were introduced to the assembly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE Dan Russell (VM) offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

CONSENT AGENDA & CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk, TE Amy Loving Austin (Stanley, Seneca #9 / Bellona, Memorial), presented the Consent Agenda and Clerk's Report.

Item 6 was pulled from the Consent Agenda to discuss and vote on separately.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

That the presbytery:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Stated Presbytery Meeting.
2. **Approve** seating of Corresponding Members (CMs) [note: CMs have voice, not vote].
3. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
4. **Receive** the Treasurer's Report.
5. **Approve** the election of the following person to serve on particular committee:
 - Committee on Representation:
 - RE Lynn Dinehart (Prattsburgh, First) [Class of 2028]
6. ~~**Approve** the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, NY, to borrow funds from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. and **approve** the Presbytery of Geneva being a guarantor on that loan. [Note: the \$100,000 loan will provide funding for a solar power project; the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program will release the funds when approved by the Presbytery] [REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION]~~
7. **Grant** Honorably Retired status to Rev. David Preisendanz, effective June 1, 2026. [Note: the use of "Honorably Retired" is still allowed, it is simply no longer *required*.]
8. **Receive** all written reports provided for the May 26, 2026 Stated Presbytery Meeting.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. All commissioners are reminded of their responsibility to read through all meeting materials prior to each Presbytery Meeting. If you have any clarifying questions, you are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate person or committee prior to the meeting.
2. REMINDER: Congregations and Minister Members of the Presbytery are strongly encouraged (please!) to pay their 2026 per capita (\$66.43) to the Presbytery of Geneva. The Presbytery portion of our per capita is our primary source of funding for staff support, enabling better communication and training opportunities for our congregations and members.
Minister Members, you can make your per capita payment online:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>
Read about how per capita helps build up the body of Christ here:
<https://pcusa.org/resources/financial-information/capita>
3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars:
<https://www.synodne.org/webinars-2>

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA STATED MEETING DATES

Tues., Sept. 29, 2026	10am	In-person only, TBD
Tues., Nov. 17, 2026	1pm	Zoom
Sat., January 23, 2027	10am	Zoom

COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND WITNESS

TE Lynn Rubier-Capron (Elmira, First), chair of the Committee on Mission and Witness, presented the report:

In 2025, Presbytery believed we had a certain amount of money available for Matthew 25 Grants at the beginning of the year. This was based on pledges. And, as the year progressed, the same thing happened with Presbytery that has happened in churches and non for profit organizations all over the country. By December 2025 we did not have the amount of money for Matthew 25 grants that we thought we would have in January.

This is not because anyone did anything wrong. It was because numbers are what they are in our churches.

Council did the only ethical thing we could do, and that is to change the order in which we offer and allocate Matthew 25 grants. We had to flip it so that we offer and allocate money that we already have. What that looks like is this: *In 2026, we will take monies given by churches for Mission and in the early part of 2027, we will offer and grant Matthew 25 grants based on those actual dollars that we already have from churches... real money collected in 2026 that we will offer and allocate in early 2027.*

We ask that you give your mission committees, your sessions, and your community organizations who look to Matthew 25 grants this information. We want them to know that we have adjusted our practice to respond to current conditions so that when we say we can do something, we can actually do it. This comes from Matthew 5:37, the same gospel that inspires the Matthew 25 grants: "let your yes be yes, and your no be no."

In the meantime, what is the Mission and Witness Committee doing in 2026?

In 2026, Mission and Witness has followed the direction of General Council, and devoted ourselves to mission interpretation. We offered Minutes for Mission in March. And, today, we will offer a Mission Fair.

The Presbytery adjourned to attend the Mission Fair which was set up in another room. Representatives from several churches shared information, excitement, and enthusiasm about the missional efforts being done through their congregation and partnering organizations.

Those participating in the Mission Fair also engaged in a "Scavenger Hunt" during the event, which entered them into a drawing for a gift certificate to Spotted Duck Creamery.

The Presbytery returned to the meeting space at 11:20am to continue the business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS & TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, TE David Ashby (AL) presented the report:

Our new mailing address is
Presbytery of Geneva, PO Box 17, Penn Yan NY 14527
everything else is unchanged.

Our accounts at Community Bank

	03-08-26	
CKGENERAL	\$33,020.82	
SAVGENERAL	\$6,837.10	
CKCAMP	\$24,551.51	
SAVCAMP	\$2.36	
	-----	-----
Total	\$64,411.79	-\$56,728.09

Funds with New Covenant Funds / Presbyterian Foundation (June 2025)

Camp Whitman Endowment	\$109,333
Camp Whitman Scholarship	\$63,882
Presbytery Endowment	\$59,808
Camp Whitman (value 2024)	\$2,462,743 (incl. vehicles, boats, equipment, etc.)

The startling drop is the transfer of \$45,159.00 from SAVCAMP to Camp Whitman, Inc.

Contributions from congregations are beginning to flow in. We will refill some of the savings account-based reserve (board-designated) accounts, especially the mission reserve. There is a brief window to submit 2025 mission or per capita before our annual audit, so please check with your treasurer.

Shortly, we will finish switching permanent camp employees payroll and dues to the Board of Pensions to their own accounts. Likewise, the Camp Whitman portion of our funds with the Presbyterian Foundation / New Covenant Funds will be transferred soon. Our attorney is working on transferring assets and property to Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Inc.

The reclamation of the Presbytery's website may finally be done. The infection dates back two or three years, mostly in some of the resource pages and some of the files, but in such a way that the hackers would see fixes and unfix them. That vulnerability has been stamped out, we believe. As a couple of people finish reviewing the repaired site, Gretchen will update things and change to the new Penn Yan PO Box throughout.

Correct per capita

GA 2026 \$11.26; SynodNE \$4.25; Presbytery \$50.92; TOTAL \$66.43

Our online donation page is <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home> Publicize it widely.

As always, have at me with questions or complaints!

David Ashby treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org 607-227-5216

The Stated Clerk presented the item of business that had been pulled from the Consent Agenda. As the motion had come from a committee, the Presbytery proceeded to discuss the motion.

Following discussion, the Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to **approve** the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, NY, to borrow funds from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. and **approve** the Presbytery of Geneva being a guarantor on that loan. [Note: the \$100,000 loan will provide funding for a solar power project; the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program will release the funds when approved by the Presbytery]

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship), committee member, presented the report:

We continue meeting, and considering who can serve in our Presbytery – as a blessing (in their life, in the life of the Presbytery, and in honor to God!). We thank & pray for each person serving faithfully & for all the work of the committees! THANK YOU!!!!

We invite you to prayerfully consider – serving our Presbytery as a Synod Representative – we will be seeking 1 RE, 1 TE, and a Young Adult to serve in this way (with our New Synod Vision – and shifts in our own Presbytery we stand in need of people who can serve in this way.) We thank you (in advance!) for praying, considering, and holding us in prayer also as we discern & invite! Additionally, we are so excited to ask for a vote on an exception! It is with great joy & much energy that we praise God for someone who has been able to say, “Here I am, Lord!” to service in this season in our Presbytery! So...we request an exception & vote:

Elmira North Member Kathryn Hansen is open to serving on Operations (Class 2028).

Kathryn is neither a TE or a RE (currently a requirement in serving on the Operations Committee) – we request an exception for her to serve on Operations (a need for our

Presbytery). Thus, COR is recommending & asking the Presbytery to allow an exception & for Member Kathryn Hansen to serve on Operations (Class 2028).

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to **approve** an exception to the standing rules and **elect** Kathryn Hansen (Elmira, North) to serve on the Committee on Operations (Class of 2028).

COMMITTEE ON LEADER CARE REPORT

RE Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First), member of the Committee on Leader Care, presented the report.

The Committee on Leader Care, on behalf of the Presbytery, presented a Certificate of Recognition to TE David Preisendanz in honor of his retirement (effective June 1, 2026).

At a previous meeting, the Committee on Leader Care had presented a special Resolution of Thanks for TE Marjorie Ackerman (AL) to honor her at the conclusion of her service as Presbytery Leader. The committee reported to the Presbytery that they had a copy of that resolution printed and framed; they will be sending it to Rev. Ackerman.

MISSION FAIR SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER & DOOR PRIZES

TE Lynn Rubier-Capron (Elmira, First) announced that TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) was the lucky winner of the Mission Fair Scavenger Hunt drawing.

The Stated Clerk announced the winners of the Pre-Registration Door Prizes: TE John Milne (HR) and David Hansen (Elmira, North).

WORSHIP

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship. Worship included a commissioning of TE H. Leigh Holder (Newark, Park) to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, and commissioning of TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva) and RE Barbara Richter (Corning, First) to serve as commissioners to the 227th General Assembly. Worship also included the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) preached the Word.

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) led the commissioning service.

TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, CTKF) presided over communion.

Also included in the service of worship was the sharing of Good News from Congregations and Committees.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE H. Leigh Holder (Newark, Park) offered the resolution of thanks, expressing gratitude for various individuals and aspects of the Presbytery's work.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery VOTED to **adjourn** the meeting with prayer.

The Moderator offered prayer and declared the meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

WRITTEN REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT — May 26, 2026

[From the meetings of 04/07/26 and 05/05/26]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION – None

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Approve the Terms of Call between Seneca #9 and Rev. Amy Loving-Austin.
- Approve the Terms of Call between Bellona and Rev. Amy Loving-Austin.
- Approve the Terms of Call between Hornell United and Rev. Ted Warner.
- Approve the Terms of Call between Corning and Rev. Jeffrey Ugaretz.
- Approve the Covenants between Horseheads/Big Flats and Rev. Dr. Patricia Schick for 3 months.
- Approve the appointment of Rev. Nancy Farrell as moderator at Huron during John Gingerich's absence.
- Approve the Dissolution Agreement between Horseheads First and Rev. Aaron Frank.
- Approve the appointment of the following Administrative Commission to Install Rev. Michael Ball as Pastor of Hector Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at the Hector Presbyterian Church, at 3 p.m.:
 - Moderator, TE Evan Hansen (Elmira North)
 - TE Sabrina Slater (Christ the King, Spencer)
 - RE John Potter (Watkins Glen)
 - RE Beth Newell (Geneva)
 - RE Ben Saks (Hector)
 - Corresponding member: Rev. Lynda Myers (Watkins Glen);Grant the moderator or his designee the authority to make any necessary and appropriate changes to the Administrative Commission to Install; Authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper; and Dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks, upon the completion of the Service of Installation.
- Approve the Covenant between Sodus and Gail Heimberger, as submitted, with expectation that it will meet minimums in 2027.
- Approve the dissolution of the call between Newark (Park) and the Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder; and approve Form 4 for Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder to serve as Stated Supply at Newark (Park).

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Receive the OVM, Retired, At-large reports from Revs. Milne, Husted, Karr-Lyon, Kerr, Donnan, Kennedy, and Wareham.
- Receive the Healthy Boundaries document from Horseheads First and Rev. Aaron Frank.
- Receive the Attestation from Canandaigua for Rev. Dr. Wade Allen.
- Amend Form 1A, removing blanks and inserting the unchanging minimums or guidance on Book of Order specifics.
- Approve Cathy Foerster to serve communion, as she is trained and experienced, and to be placed on the Pulpit Supply list as such.
- Approve Leigh Holder to moderate the Session of the East Palmyra church.
- Approve John Milne to moderate the Huron church in March.
- Approve Paul Rack serving communion at Longview Nursing Home.
- Receive the CRE Annual Report for 2025 from Don Peek.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY — May 26, 2026

[From the meetings of 04/14/26 and 05/12/26]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

(Presbytery Structure)

The General Council is in the process of reviewing our current structure, recognizing that some changes are necessary due to Camp Whitman becoming a separate entity *and* the changes in our statistics over the past several years. Council hopes to make a more detailed presentation to the Presbytery in the Fall.